IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph 5 beginning on page 2, line 1 with the following two rewritten paragraphs:

--Whether a photograph is taken with a traditional film camera or with a digital camera, the photograph can be, and often is, rendered as a digital image that is capable of being edited, cropped, re-touched, or otherwise modified. Popular digital photo editing applications include tools for image editing that include the ability to modify or correct red eye effect in image subjects. Such tools are generally manually manipulated to the effected area, and then may be implemented in a manual or semi-automatic mode to correct red eye. Figure 1B shows the eye 10 image of Figure 1A with a typical digital image editing tool set of a computer program such as a photo editing application of a computer system implemented for red eye correction. Eye 10 image includes outer iris area 12, pupil area 14, and small region 16 within pupil area 14 having bright white flash reflection. A selection box 18 may be defined around the general area of the red eye effect to be corrected. A user or operator usually defines the selection box 18 around the area desired to be corrected. In other words, a computer user or operator must identify an area or region in a digital image, which is stored as electrical signals in a computer system and displayed on a computer display output, and in some manner effect a selection or identification of the area for correction.

In some applications, a simple selection box 18 is sufficient to identify the area. If the photo editing application includes some measure of semi-automatic correction, the defining of the selection box 18 may be all that is required of the user or operator prior to indicating an acceptance or rejection of the semi-automatic red eye correction within the selected or identified area. In some applications, a computer user or operator must scale the digital image to achieve as large an image as possible, or desired, and then must correct the color within the pupil region 14 of the eye 10 one pixel at a time until the desired color correction is effected. Typically, a pointer 20, which may be in the shape of an arrow as illustrated, or in the shape of a paintbrush, a fountain pen, a sprayer, and so forth depending on the specific editing application, is used to select each pixel within the effected area, one at a time, and then each

selected pixel is changed to a desired color. In semi-automatic applications, the pointer 20 is typically used to define, size, and position the selection box 18 over the area to be corrected.--

Please replace paragraph 29, starting on page 8, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In operation 106, same color areas are identified. In one embodiment, same color areas originate from existing hard red areas and are built around real color centers of the detected hard red areas. As will be described in greater detail below, a real color center is defined as a point in the detected hard red area with the closest HSI value to that of the averages for the detected hard red area. The same color area is the area that consists of a ~~continuous~~ contiguous set of pixels built around a real color center and having a color that is similar, also referred to as a "same color," to that of the real color center. The same color areas, plus the subset of filtered hard red areas, comprise a new set of final red areas that are subject to further filtering.